

24 December 1970

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, Real Estate and Construction Division,
Office of Logistics

ATTENTION : Chief Engineer, [REDACTED] 25X1A9a

SUBJECT : Vendor's Failure to Meet Specifications for
Motorized Shelving for [REDACTED] 25X1A6a

1. Attached are reports by Mr. [REDACTED] which indicate disappointment with the [REDACTED] Mock-up unit. Specifically, and most importantly, they feel there was no secondary safety device available in the aisle at ankle height and the primary safety device at elbow height functioned erratically and was first located in a bad position on the equipment. 25X1A9a 25X1A5a1

2. This and the several other shortcomings of the demonstration and testing which they list cause me serious concern.

3. I understand that Mr. [REDACTED] of your staff was very sympathetic with the manufacturer's problems and is inclined to discount the failure of the vendor to meet the written specifications as being of no consequence and to be ignored. We too believe in cooperation and the importance of the time schedule but safety is too serious to be compromised. 25X1A9a

4. The items listed are very serious deficiencies and we wish to bring them to your attention prior to any advice being given to Norfolk engineers about letting a contract.

5. I sincerely hope that we can meet and discuss these divergent views before any contract is signed. I believe the problems can be solved and that the vendor's salesman has mentioned his willingness to ask for corrections to be made. Such oral discussions are indicative and helpful but not definite or conclusive. Such willingness to correct shortcomings usually disappears after the contracts are signed. Likewise, testing and revisions should be complete before installation because an equipment stoppage even for beneficial research and revisions on site can have serious Agencywide ramifications.

6. These are not new considerations. They were all spelled out in the specifications that the vendor accepted when he calculated his bid. I will appreciate an opportunity to discuss your position on this

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matter at your earliest convenience. I would also appreciate seeing a copy of Mr. [REDACTED] report on his review of the mock-up and tests. At present it is my conviction that another examination of the corrected mock-up is advisable before a final contract is let.

[REDACTED]
CIA Records Administration Officer

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Attachments:

Report by Mr. [REDACTED]

Report by Mr. [REDACTED]

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